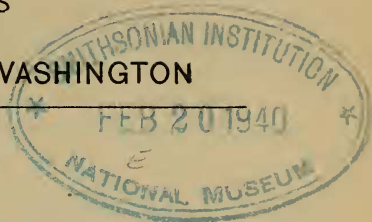


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONA NEW *MYOPHONUS* FROM NORTH SIAM.

BY H. G. DEIGNAN.

Among the birds collected in Siam by Dr. Hugh M. Smith are two female specimens of a Whistling-Thrush, which appear worthy of subspecific recognition. For them I propose the name

Myophonus caeruleus rileyi, subsp. nov.

Type.—Adult female, United States National Museum, no. 311561; collected at 7,000 feet on Doi Angka (Khao Inthanon), Chiangmai province, North Siam, 6 December, 1928.

Diagnosis.—Nearest to *Myophonus caeruleus temminckii* Vig. of India and *M. c. changensis* Riley of S. E. Siam, but readily distinguished from either in having the spangles fewer and much reduced in size, both above and below. The white tips to the lesser upper wing-coverts are similarly reduced in size and number. The ground-color of the body-feathers, where not blue, is without the distinctly brownish hue of *temminckii*, but is blackish as in *changensis*. The bill of the new form is not so large and heavy as that of *changensis*, but is like that of *temminckii*.

Measurements of type.—Wing (chord), 167.5; exposed culmen, 22; tail, 115; tarsus, 50.

Range.—The only specimens I have seen were collected on Doi Angka. The bird from Khun Tan, referred by Gyldenstolpe to *temminckii* (Ibis, 1920, p. 479) doubtless belongs to this form.

Remarks.—*Rileyi* belongs to that section of the genus which has white tips to the lesser upper wing-coverts, and the concealed parts of the flank-feathers and of many of the contour-feathers below white or whitish. I believe that *M. caeruleus*, *M. temminckii*, and their races, may properly be considered forms of a single species, under the name *caeruleus*. There is regular variation in the size and color of the bill from north to south, as shown in the accompanying table, and there seems to be no other character which can be used for specific separation. There is a tendency in the group to develop a white patch on the outer median under wing-coverts. This character increases both in frequency and in extent from north to south; it occurs only rarely in *temminckii* from the Himalayas and in *caeruleus* and *immansuetus* of China.

Myophonus eugenei Hume, which lacks all the various concealed white markings of *caeruleus* and its races, I consider to be a distinct and probably monotypic species, occurring within the ranges of *immansuetus*, *temminckii*, *rileyi*, and *changensis*, and apparently everywhere the commoner form. Its bill is like that of *changensis* both in size and color.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

M. c. caeruleus and *M. c. immansuetus*.—24 (East and West China).

M. c. temminckii.—9 (Himalayas).

M. c. rileyi.—2 (N. Siam).

M. c. changensis.—5, including type (S. E. Siam).

The new form is named for Mr. J. H. Riley, of the Division of Birds, United States National Museum, in recognition of his studies of the birds of Siam.

TABLE SHOWING VARIATION IN SIZE AND COLOR OF BILL.

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| 1. <i>M. c. caeruleus</i> . | Bill light; maxilla black; mandible usually black, |
| <i>M. c. immansuetus</i> . | occasionally dark horny-brown; in some specimens, irregular patches of yellow on maxilla, mandible, or both. |
| 2. <i>M. c. temminckii</i> . | Bill moderate; maxilla wholly or largely black, |
| <i>M. c. rileyi</i> | otherwise yellow; mandible yellow. |
| 3. <i>M. c. changensis</i> . | Bill heavy; maxilla yellow, with naral region and culmen black; mandible yellow. |